What is claimed is:

1.   A card-cage audio visual signal control system with help files embedded into each card comprising:

(1)   a cage comprising a plurality of slots for installing cards disposed inside the cage;

(2)   a plurality of cards removably installed into the slots, each card performing a specific function with respect to signals applied to the card;

(3)   a central control means disposed inside the cage, the central control means controlling the cards;

(4)   a power means disposed inside the cage, the power means supplying power to the central control means and the cards;

(5)   a plurality of interconnect means connecting the cards to the central control means;

(6)   an interface means for connecting an external computer means to the central control means and the cards;

wherein each card comprises an embedded help file comprising a communication protocol for the card accessible by a method comprising:

(a)   connecting an external computer means comprising a display means to the interface means;

(b)   generating a help request signal programmed to identify the card and retrieve the help file;

(c)   applying the help request signal to the card via the interface means;

(d)   in response to the help request signal, transmitting the help file to the external computer means and displaying the help file on the display means.

2.   A card-cage audio visual signal control system with help files embedded into each card comprising:

(1)   a cage comprising a plurality of slots for installing cards disposed inside the cage;

(2)   a plurality of cards removably installed into the slots, each card performing a specific function with respect to signals applied to the card;

(3)   a bus means disposed inside the cage, the bus means controlling the cards;

(4)   a power means disposed inside the cage, the power means supplying power to the bus means and the cards;

(5)   a plurality of interconnect means connecting the cards to the bus means;

(6)   an interface means for connecting an external computer means to the bus means and the cards;

wherein each card comprises an embedded help file comprising a communication protocol for the card accessible by a method comprising:

(a)   connecting an external computer means comprising a display means to the interface means;

(b)   generating a help request signal programmed to identify the card and retrieve the help file;

(c)   applying the help request signal to the card via the interface means;

(d)   in response to the help request signal, transmitting the help file to the external computer means and displaying the help file on the display means.